CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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28 October 1969
ENGLISH

FINAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIXTH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Tuesday, 28 October 1969, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. K. ARKOO (Pakistan)

(Previous verbatim records in this series appeared under the symbols ENDC/PV.1-ENDC/PV.430).

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PRESENT AT THE TABLE

Argentina:	Mr. C. ORTIZ de ROZAS
	Mr. A.F. DUMONT
	Mr. O. SARACHO
Brazil:	Mr. S.A. FRAZAO
	Mr. P. CABRAL de MELLO
	Mr. D. NATARIO
	Mr. M. DARCY de OLIVEIRA
Bulgaria:	Mr. K. CHRISTOV
	Mr. I. PEINIRDJIEV
Burma:	U KYAW MIN
Canada:	Mr. G. IGNATIEFF
	Mr. R.W. CLARK
Czechoslovakia:	Mr. T. LAHODA
	Mr. J. CINGROS
Ethiopa:	Mr. A. ZELLEKE
Hungary:	Mr. I. KOMIVES
	Mr. S. HAJNAL
India:	Mr. M.A. HUSAIN
	Mr. K.P. JAIN
Italy:	Mr. R. CARACCIOLO
	Mr. F.L. OTTIERI
	Mr. R. BORSARELLI
	Mr. U. PESTALOZZA
Japan:	Mr. Y. NAKAYAMA
	Mr. T. SENGOKU
	Mr. J. SAKAMOTO

Mexico:	Miss E. AGUILAR
	Mr. J. MERCADO
Mongolia:	Mr. M. DUGERSUREN
	Mr. Z. ERDEMDOO
Morocco:	Mr. A.A. KHATTABI
Netherlands:	Mr. H.F. ESCHAUZIER
	Mr. E. DOS
Nigeria:	Mr. C.O. HOLLIST
Pakistan:	Mr. K. AHMED
	Mr. S.A.D. BUKHARI
Poland:	Mr. K. ZYBULSKI
	Mr. H. STEPOSZ
	Mr. R. WLAZLO
Romania:	Mr. C. GEORGESCO
	Mr. C. MITRAN
	Mrs. F. DINU
	Mr. F. ROSU
Sweden:	Mr. A. EDELSTAM
	Mr. R. BOMAN
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	Mr. A.A. ROSHCHIN
	Mr. R.M. TIMERBAEV
	Mr. V.B. TOULINOV
	Mr. Y.C. NAZARKINE
United Arab Republic:	Mr. H. KHALLAF
	Mr. O. SIRRY
	Mr. Y. RIZK
	Mr. M. ISMAIL

United Kingdom:	Mr. I.F. PORTER
	Mr. W.N. HILLIER-FRY
	Mr. R. HOULISTON
United States of America:	Mr. J.F. LEONARD
	Mr. A.F. MEIDLE
	Mr. W. GIVAN
	Mr. R.L. McCORMACK
Yugoslavia:	Mr. M. BOZINOVIC
	Mr. M. VUKOVIC
Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General:	Mr. W. EPSTEIN

1. The CHAIRMAN (Pakistan): I declare open the 446th plenary meeting of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

2. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translation from Russian): The Soviet delegation considers that its duty is to inform the members of the Committee of the announcement made in Moscow and Washington on 25 October concerning the forthcoming Soviet-United States strategic arms limitation talks. The communication reads as follows:

"Confirming the agreement reached earlier to enter into negotiations on curbing the strategic armaments race, the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States have agreed that specially-appointed representatives of the Soviet Union and the United States will meet in Helsinki on 17 November 1969 for preliminary discussions on the questions involved."

3. In connexion with the agreement reached on the aforesaid negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States, we should like to emphasize that the Soviet Union attaches great importance to steps aimed at curbing the strategic arms race. We express the hope that the forthcoming negotiations will contribute to solving an important problem of the present day, namely to put an end to the nuclear arms race. There is no doubt that if that arms race could be curbed, those who would benefit thereby would be not only the Powers possessing such weapons but all the States of the world, since international security would be greatly strengthened.

4. We note with satisfaction that this view is shared by the participants in the Committee on Disarmament, who in their statements have repeatedly stressed that the question of curbing the strategic arms race is of great importance from the point of view of solving other disarmament problems and improving the international atmosphere.

5. Mr. LEONARD (United States of America): I am pleased to join the representative of the Soviet Union in drawing the attention of this Committee to the announcement made on Saturday in Moscow and in Washington concerning the negotiations between our two Governments on curbing the strategic arms race.

6. In the course of our discussions at this session of the Committee, a number of delegations have commented upon the major positive significance which these bilateral talks could have. I am confident that my colleagues around this table are as pleased as is the United States delegation that the time and place for beginning those negotiations have now been fixed. This announcement signals an important step in the

(Mr. Leonard, United States of America)

field of disarmament, a field to which the members of this Committee have devoted and are continuing to devote their energy, their intelligence and, what is sometimes a particularly important quality, their patience.

7. The CHAIRMAN (Pakistan): With the permission of my colleagues, I should like to make a brief statement in my capacity as Chairman. I am sure that I am expressing the sentiments of all the members of this Committee in congratulating the Governments of the United States of America and the Soviet Union on their agreement to begin talks on 17 November in Helsinki on the limitation and reduction of strategic nuclear weapons.

8. As all of us know, many members of this Committee have expressed the hope that the two Governments concerned would enter into these talks at an early date. We earnestly hope that the talks will be successful and will lead to agreements that will reduce international tension and will remove the danger to mankind of the threat of a nuclear arms race. We hope that the Committee on Disarmament will be kept informed, as is appropriate, on the progress in the talks between the Governments of the United States of America and the Soviet Union.

9. Mr. IGNATIEFF (Canada): In these days when the Committee has been given to celebrating technological achievements in the heavens -- and I take the occasion to associate myself with the admiration expressed here to our Soviet colleagues in regard to the recent exploits of the Soviet cosmonauts in their heavenly "troika" -- it is indeed a pleasant change to mark such an outstanding achievement related to the efforts to control the ill effects of technology on earth in the common interests of all of humanity.

10. I agree with you, Mr. Chairman, that this occasion should not go unnoticed and I take pleasure in expressing on behalf of the Canadian delegation gratification that the nations represented here by our co-Chairmen have decided now on the time and the place for proceeding with these important talks. Their significance, as our co-Chairmen have stressed, can hardly be overestimated. The Prime Minister of Canada, opening a debate on national policy in the House of Commons on 24 October -- that is, the day before this happy announcement -- had this to say:

> "No single international activity rates higher priority, in the opinion of the Canadian Government, than the pursuit of effective arms control and arms limitation agreements. Canada refuses to submit without protest to the present

(Mr. Ignatieff, Canada)

nuclear hegemony. It is deeply concerned at the failure of important nuclear Powers — the Soviet Union, the United States, China and France — so far to ratify the non-proliferation Treaty[1/], article VI of which binds parties to negotiate in good faith on measures leading to the cessation of the nuclear arms race, to nuclear disarmament and to general and complete disarmament. At the same time that ratification is delayed, the development of multiple warhead rockets continues in two of these countries; a development which could make satellite inspection in verification of arms control agreements impossible. The world now stands at a crossroads which, if passed unwisely, could lead to the destruction of mankind."

11. I am sure that many millions of people not only in Canada but in other parts of the world feel a sense of relief that strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) are to begin and will follow the development of these talks with interest and concern, and with the sincerest wish for their success in what may be, as Mr. Leonard said, one of the most important steps in the direction of nuclear disarmament.

12. In conclusion, permit me to ask that, when considering the draft report which has been circulated and is now before us, the co-Chairmen, in addition to recording the fact that many members expressed the hope that these bilateral discussions should start at an early date, as they do on page 7 of that report, should at least consider adding a footnote to the effect that those talks were planned to start on 17 November.

13. Mr. PORTER (United Kingdom): On behalf of my delegation I should like to say how much we welcome the recent announcement on SALT: that specially designated representatives of the United States and the Soviet Union are to meet in Helsinki on 17 November for a preliminary discussion on the questions involved in the limitation of strategic arms.

14. We recognise of course that those talks are only a beginning, talks about talks, and that the negotiation proper will call for great patience from both participants and non-participants. But the outcome could affect the security of all of us. Much is at stake, and we wish the negotiations every success.

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15. The CHAIRMAN (Pakistan): As representatives are aware, the revised draft report of the co-Chairmen was circulated yesterday. I understand that the co-Chairmen would like the report to be discussed and would prefer that to be done at an informal meeting when this formal meeting has ended.

16. Mr. CARACCIOLO (Italy): I wonder whether it might not be more useful, if there is to be a discussion, to hold it in an official meeting so that we shall not have to repeat what is said informally at a later formal meeting. I therefore suggest that we proceed with the formal meeting.

17. Mr. LEONARD (United States of America): I think that the suggestion of the representative of Italy is quite in order; but the co-Chairmen had thought that, since this report is a partial one of which a preliminary discussion is proposed, it would perhaps be preferable for that discussion to be informal and for the subsequent discussion which will obviously have to take place when the complete report is available to be held at a formal meeting, if delegations so wish.

18. The CHAIRMAN (Pakistan): If there are no objections, I take it that that suggestion is acceptable to the Committee.

19. I will now read the draft communiqé:

"The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament today held its 446th plenary meeting in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the chairmanship of H.E. Ambassador Kamaluddin Ahmed, representative of Pakistan.

"Statements were made by the Chairman and by the representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom and Italy.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 30 October 1969, at 10.30 a.m."

20. Mr. HUSAIN (India): I notice, Mr. Chairman, that you mention in the draft communiqué that the next meeting of the Committee will take place on Thursday. I am a little concerned to hear that, because last week we had the impression that the revised draft of the sea-bed treaty (CCD/269/Rev.1) would be available to us early this week. If the next meeting is to take place on Thursday, I do not see how we can

(Mr. Husain, India)

finish our work before 31 October. We are now about to discuss the draft report in informal meeting, and I would therefore be interested to know what the intentions of the co-Chairmen are, whether this matter is to be postponed until Thursday, and whether it is intended to sit beyond 31 October in order to conclude our work here.

21. Mr. PORTER (United Kingdom): I would like to support what my Indian colleague has just said; but I take it that, even if the communiqué refers to Thursday, that will not prevent a meeting being called for tomorrow, shall we say, if that is thought suitable.

22. Mr. ROSHCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translation from Russian): I think that the best way we could choose at present in order to fix the procedure for our future work would be the adoption of the communiqué which has just been read out, but with the understanding that the members of the Committee will meet tomorrow if the co-Chairmen, through the Secretariat, request them to do so. We hope that the co-Chairmen will be able very shortly to submit a revised draft treaty taking into account the discussion that has taken place in the Committee. At the present moment it does not seem to us possible to say quite definitely that we shall be able to meet tomorrow. We should therefore like to ask the members of the Committee to be prepared to meet tomorrow if the co-Chairmen request them to do so.

23. Mr. HUSAIN (India): I am very grateful to Mr. Roshchin for indicating that we may have a meeting tomorrow and that the Secretariat will inform us about it. That discussion would relate to the revised draft of the sea-bed treaty.

24. I would now like to clarify the position with regard to the draft report, which we are going to discuss informally. At what stage will that report be discussed in formal meeting for adoption? Will that be before or after the discussion of the revised draft treaty, and when is it intended to produce the formal draft of the report following the informal discussion?

25. Mr. LEONARD (United States of America): The co-Chairmen feel that, if it were possible for us to have a meeting tomorrow at which the question of the sea-bed treaty would be further discussed, it would be appropriate to have a meeting on Thursday — which could be formal or informal as the members of the Committee might wish — for

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a further discussion of the report. Of course the report would be circulated as a revised and complete draft in time to give the members of the Committee an opportunity to study it before the meeting on Thursday.

26. Mr. ROSCHIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (translation from Russian): I merely wish to say that the final report should be adopted after the completion of the discussion on the draft treaty on the sea-bed. Before the completion of the discussion on that question, it seems to me that the Committee would not be in a position to adopt the final text of the report.

27. Mr. HUSAIN (India): In view of the clarification given by the co-Chairmen, I think that the time-table and procedure suggested, if adhered to, should do very well.

The Conference decided to issue the following communiqué:

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"Statements were made by the Chairman and by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy and India.

"The next meeting of the Conference will be held on Thursday, 30 October 1969, at 10.30 a.m."

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.